



**Request for City Council Committee Action  
From the Department of Regulatory Services**

Date March 20, 2002

To Public Safety and Regulatory Services

Referral to Ways and Means

**Subject** Groundwork USA Grant

**Recommendation**

The Department of Regulatory Services recommends that the Council accept the \$10,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and National Park Service to conduct a feasibility study for establishing a Groundwork USA chapter in Minneapolis. It is further requested that these funds be allocated to the following Environmental Management account for payment of services:

fund/agy/org/revenue 0300-835-8396-3210

**Previous Directives**

None

Prepared or Submitted by Marjorie Terrell, Environmental Inspector, 673-5441

Approved by John Bergquist, Assistant City Coordinator

Presenters in Committee Bill Anderson, Deputy Director, Environmental Services

Marjorie Terrell, Environmental Management

**Financial Impact** (Check those that apply)

☐ No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget.  
(If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)

☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget

☐ Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget

☐ Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase

☐ Action requires use of contingency or reserves

☒ Other financial impact (Explain): **EPA/NPS grant for \$10,000 will be awarded to the City of Minneapolis upon submittal of signed agreement. This money will be appropriated to Environmental Management to cover the cost of the feasibility study, paid from the same account.**

☐ Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

**Community Impact** (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification

City Goals Comprehensive Plan Zoning Code Other
--

**Background/Supporting Information Attached:**

Groundwork is an international organization, begun in the UK, with 6 branches on the East Coast. The mission of Groundwork USA is to improve the physical environment through community projects utilizing residents, businesses, and other resources. Working with the Groundwork USA network, the US Environmental Protection Agency and National Park Service offered two \$100,000 grants to non-East Coast cities to establish Groundwork chapters.

In December 2001, a steering committee (comprised of Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee members, community representatives, Minneapolis Environmental Management staff, and National Park Service staff) submitted a Groundwork grant application. The idea proposed in the application was for an organization that would work with neighborhood and community groups wishing to convert brownfield and blighted properties to community-oriented space. The organization would fill gaps in services provided by existing non-profit organizations and government agencies, in such areas as identifying viable projects and partners, grant writing assistance, and project management.

Minneapolis has been selected to receive this grant funding. The initial allocation is for \$10,000 to conduct a feasibility study for a Groundwork Minneapolis chapter. The steering committee will decide how this money should be spent. This study will take a closer look at what other non-profits are doing in the area, the need for an additional organization, and potential funding sources, both for projects and overhead expenses. Upon completion of the study, the steering committee will determine the viability of Groundwork Minneapolis. The City will then be asked to endorse the Steering Committee's recommendation.

If the steering committee and City decide to move forward the remaining \$90,000 will be distributed in installments, based on completion of deliverables as specified in the Grant Agreement.

**Additional Information Attached:**

Minneapolis Groundwork Grant Application  
Application letter from Mayor Rybak  
Application letter from Kathleen O'Brien, City Coordinator  
US EPA/NPS Groundwork Cooperative Agreement –Draft (document is currently being reviewed by attorneys for the City and National Park Service)